

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claims 11-21 were elected in response to the Restriction Requirement mailed January 12, 2007. Accordingly, please amend the claims by canceling claims 22-29, as follows:

11. (Original) A computer system for operation in a network, the system comprising a storage system, a network interface, and a processor; the system containing a local copy of a portion of a distributed metadata registry, and an agent for monitoring communications between machines of the computer network and the computer system for communications relevant to a command object of the metadata registry, the agent being configured to modify the command object by adding thereto network address information of machines of the computer network that should participate in a communication affecting the metadata registry to maintain coherency of the metadata registry.
12. (Original) The computer system of claim 11, wherein the command object further comprises a quality of service object comprising a desired capacity, latency, and bandwidth, wherein the computer system comprises an allocator that selects a resource of the storage system according to criteria comprising the desired capacity, latency, and bandwidth of the quality of service object and available resource information of the metadata registry.
13. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 11, wherein the metadata registry comprises resource information including capacity and

latency information for at least two devices to which the computer system is coupled

14. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 11, wherein the command object comprises a quality of service object including a desired capacity, latency, and bandwidth.

15. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 11, wherein a resource allocator uses at least one of information in the quality of service object and resource information in the metadata registry to select a destination information.

16. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 11, wherein The metadata registry comprises network topology information, and the quality of service object comprises desired network hop information.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 16, wherein the resource allocator uses the network topology information and the desired network hop information to select a resource.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 11, wherein the metadata registry comprises network load information.

19. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 18, wherein the resource allocator uses network load information to select a resource.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 11, wherein the metadata registry comprises information about processing resources of the network, and wherein the quality of service object comprises desired processing resources.

21. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 11, wherein the allocate or uses at least one of the information about processing resources of the network and the desired processing resources to select a resource.

Claims 22-29 (Canceled)